

# WISCONSIN TEEN SUICIDE

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## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

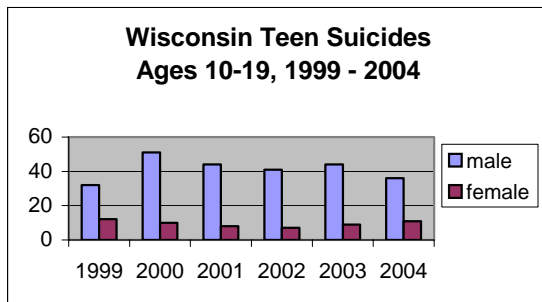
- In 2004, 47 of the 656 Wisconsin residents who died by suicide were between 10 to 19 years of age.
- Suicide is three times more prevalent than homicides.
- Suicide attempts are much more common than deaths by suicide. Attempts are estimated nationally to be 20 times the number of deaths.
- Each suicide death is estimated to affect at least six others in the person's family, school, workplace, or community.
- Firearms are the most common lethal means of suicide, accounting for 46 percent of all suicide deaths in Wisconsin.
- Suicide is the fourth leading cause of death in the 1 to 14 year-old age group and the second leading cause of death in the 15 to 19 year-old age group.
- According to the 2005 Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 18 percent of Wisconsin high school students reported to have seriously considered attempting suicide.
- In 2004, males in the 10 to 19 year-old age group were 77 percent more likely to commit suicide than the 10 to 19 year-old female age group.

## WISCONSIN TEEN SUICIDE ATTEMPTS

In 2004, the number of hospitalizations of 10 to 19 year-olds for suicide attempts was 1,197. There were 1,648 emergency room visits related to attempted suicide.

## LEADING CAUSES OF TEEN SUICIDE DEATHS AGES 10-19, 2004

- Firearms (27)
- Suffocation (16)
- Falls (2)
- Non-traffic Land Transport (2)



As this chart indicates male teens continue to commit suicide more often than females by a wide margin.

## WARNING SIGNS

- Talking, reading, or writing about suicide or death.
- Talking about feeling worthless or helpless.
- Saying things like, "I'm going to kill myself," "I wish I were dead," "I shouldn't have been born," "Everyone would be better off without me," or "It doesn't matter, I won't be around much longer."
- Visiting or calling people to say goodbye.
- Giving things away or returning borrowed items.
- Organizing or cleaning bedroom for the last time.
- Obsessed with death, violence, guns, or knives.
- Previous suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts.

## A Place To Start... Suicide Prevention Websites:

HOPES (Helping Others Prevent and Educate About Suicide) [www.hopes-wi.org](http://www.hopes-wi.org)  
Wisconsin United for Mental Health [www.wimentalhealth.org](http://www.wimentalhealth.org)  
SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education) [www.save.org](http://www.save.org)  
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention [www.afsp.org](http://www.afsp.org)  
American Association of Suicidology [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)  
SPAN (Suicide Prevention Advocacy Network) [www.spanusa.org](http://www.spanusa.org)

## SOURCE OF THE DATA

WI Bureau of Health Information and Policy. DHFS WISH Query System. [www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/WISH](http://www.dhfs.wisconsin.gov/WISH),  
SAVE (Suicide Awareness/Voices of Education). HOPES (Helping Others Prevent and Educate About Suicide),  
Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey. <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbsindx.html>